

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2889

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10837

LIMDIS

STADIS////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, UR,US

SUBJECT: ASTP: JOINT POST-FLIGHT CREW VISITS TO USSR AND USA-
PLANNING MEETING

FOR OES AND EUR

REF: (A) STATE 174859, (B) MOSCOW 8917 (C) MOSCOW 10814

1. EMBASSY URGES DEPT ENSURE THAT US POSITION AT US-USSR
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ON ASTP JOINT TOUR (REF A)

INCLUDE:

A) VISIT TO MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SOVIET CITIES.

B) PARTICIPATION OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN FULL SUBJECT
TOUR.

2. EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS OF SOVIET CITIES TO BE INCLUDED AND
OF MEDIA COVERAGE SOUGHT WERE PROVIDED REF B.

3. RE PARTICIPATION OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN SUBJECT TOUR,
RECENT EXPERIENCE IN SPACE COOPERATION INDICATES THAT QUESTION
OF WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN EVENTS MUST FIRST BE WELL
RESOLVED BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND NASA. THEN US
PARTICIPATION REQUESTS MUST BE MADE CLEAR TO THE SOVIET
SIDE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT.

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4. CASES IN POINT WERE THE TWO VISITS BY AMERICANS TO THE BAYKONUR LAUNCH COMPLEX. ON THE FIRST, VISIT, EMBASSY PERSONNEL WERE EXCLUDED DESPITE SOVIETS' ENLARGING TOTAL NUMBER OF INVITATIONS (EXTENDED TO NASA) BY THREE PEOPLE AND EMBASSY'S REPEATED REQUESTS TO PARTICIPATE. ON TRIP TO BAYKONUR TO WITNESS SOYUZ 19 LAUNCH, DEPT ALREADY WELL AWARE OF APPROACHES AND EFFORTS MADE BY EMBASSY FOR INCLUSION OF WILLIS SHAPLEY (NASA). THESE APPROACHES BY ADCM AND SCI COUNS BECAME NECESSARY BECAUSE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY NASA ON ASTP OMITTED STIPULATION OF PARTICIPANTS AT EVENTS DURING APOLLO-SOYUZ MISSION, ALLOWING SOVIETS TO TRY THEIR TRADITIONAL COLSED-LAUNCH POLICY.

5. WHEREAS NASA MERITS GREAT CREDIT FOR ASTP TECHNICAL SUCCESS, THE JOB OF MAINTAINING FOR THE FUTURE ANY POLICIAL BENEFITS OF ASTP FALLS TO LARGE EXTENT ON THE EMBASSY. WE CONSEQUENTLY MUST BE INVOLVED IN THESE ACTIVITIES. IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT NASA FULLY UNDERSTANDS OR APPRECIATES THESE NEEDS, AND WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND USIA SHOULD ENSURE THAT THESE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS RANK HIGH IN THE US POSITION FOR THE SOVIET MEETING, NOW THAT THE TECHNICAL FIREWORKS HAVE HAD THEIR DAY.

6. WE ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT 1) ONLY VERESHCHETIN IS TRAVELING AND 2) NO REPLY HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING ON SOVIET HOST ORGANIZATION (REF C). IT MAY BE THAT SOVIETS FEEL OTHER ITEMS NEED TO BE SETTLED BEFORE THE PLANNING MEETING TAKES PLACE.

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